

House and Store
Pig Alley Block Study
706 Grove Avenue
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23C-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PIG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

706 GROVE AVENUE

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23C.

Location: 706 Grove Avenue, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Sallie Leigh Mann, 41 Pine Street, Petersburg,
Virginia

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Storage

Statement of Significance: This building, the front portion of which was probably constructed in the 19th century, was a store below with living quarters above. The store served the flour and cotton mill village complex located nearby. Particularly interesting is the form of the building and its method of construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. ~~Physical~~ History:

1. Date of erection: Early 19th century.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: A chain of title for the building follows. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

1822 Deed February 15, 1822 recorded in
Book 7 page 81
Donald McKenzie
Sarah McKenzie
Samuel Christian
Robert K. Jones
John F. May
to
Giles Wells

1851 Deed March 31, 1851 recorded in
Book 19 page 133
Giles Wells
Rebecca Wells
to
James M. B. Steward, tr.
for Ann Johnson

1873 Deed March 24, 1873 recorded in
Book 35 page 109

James M. B. Steward, tr.
Ann Johnson
E. J. Armstrong, tr.
to
Augustus Wright

1874 Deed February 1874, 1874 recorded in
Book 35 page 596
Augustus Wright
Mary C. Wright
E. J. Armstrong, tr.
John C. Johnson
to
G. L. Crowder

1902 Deed July 17, 1902 recorded in
Book 65 page 570
G. L. Crowder
to
Joseph D. Mann
Maggie M. Mann

1907 Deed March 7, 1907 recorded in
Book 143 page 121
Joseph D. Mann
(share of property)
to
Maggie M. Mann

1943 Deed March 17, 1943 recorded in
Will Book 19 page 11
Maggie Mann
to
Roger D. Mann
Joseph T. Mann
M. Hunter Mann

1950 Deed January 10, 1950 recorded in
Book 172 page 243
Roger D. Mann
Annie McIlwaine Mann
M. Hunter Mann
Georgia L. Mann
(two-thirds share of property)
to
Joseph T. Mann

1953 Deed June 6, 1953 recorded in
Will Book 29 page 502
Joseph Thomas Mann
to
Sallie Leigh Mann

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown
5. Alterations and additions: Unknown

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an early 19th century building, probably a store, with living quarters above. The building is interesting for its overall shape (in that it is very narrow in relation to height), for its organization of units (with two parts tacked on in stairstep fashion at rear), for its angular relationships (walls are skewed and not at right angles), and for its original store front (with large windows, pilasters and cornice).
2. Condition of fabric: Very poor, both exterior and interior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is quasi-rectangular, approximately 15' x 60' (overall dimen.). The major portion (2-1/2 stories) is approximately 15' x 40'. The second is approximately 12' x 12' and the third 12' x 8'. Smaller portions are one story. The entire building is shifted on long axis so that it assumes a trapezoidal shape.
2. Foundations: Unknown, inaccessible.
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber with clapboard siding, all very weathered. Some siding is possibly original.
4. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys. That on the 2-1/2 story portion is at rear center. It rises to the ceiling of the second-story level, has a slope of four bricks, and straightens up again to about 6' above gable. There is a 2 course cap at the top. The chimney is similar in character to many at Williamsburg. The top of the chimney (above corbel) has probably been replaced, for bond on lower level (alt. header and stretcher) is different from that above (common bond). The second chimney is at the first one-story portion to rear.
5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is one double door in front, with glass panels having 5 lights each, in each door. There are three side doors, one to each portion.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The store front window wall in front is of great interest. There are two windows, one to each side of the door and flanked on each side by wood pilasters with simple caps. Above there is a cornice extending the full width of the building. Below each window is a rectangular panel similar in character to that in each door. Each window has 9 lights (3 across). First-floor entry is about 10" above the sidewalk level. On the west of the front there are two windows at the second floor, double hung with six lights each sash. The one window at the attic level has been boarded over. Other windows that are still in place are double hung. Some appear to be original. Some windows have shutters.
6. Porches: None.
 7. Roof shape and covering: A steep gable covers the 2-1/2 story portion, with a slope of about 45°. The tin covering is in very poor condition, and has been partially ripped away. Ribs are 18" to 24" o.c., varying. Roofs of small portions are also gabled with tin covering.
 8. Structural system: Inaccessible.
 9. Cornice and eaves: No cornice, eaves flush.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. General note: The front room, first floor, was the only room accessible. Other doors are boarded over.
 2. Floor plans, wall and ceiling finish: One large room, first floor front, stairway at rear--inaccessible. Walls and ceiling are wallboard and 1" stripping.
 3. Decorative features and trim: None.
 4. Lighting: Modern.
 5. Heating: None accessible.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: The building faces northwest on Grove Street at the corner of Grove and Hurt Streets. It is set back 8' from street with sidewalk in front.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.